

News

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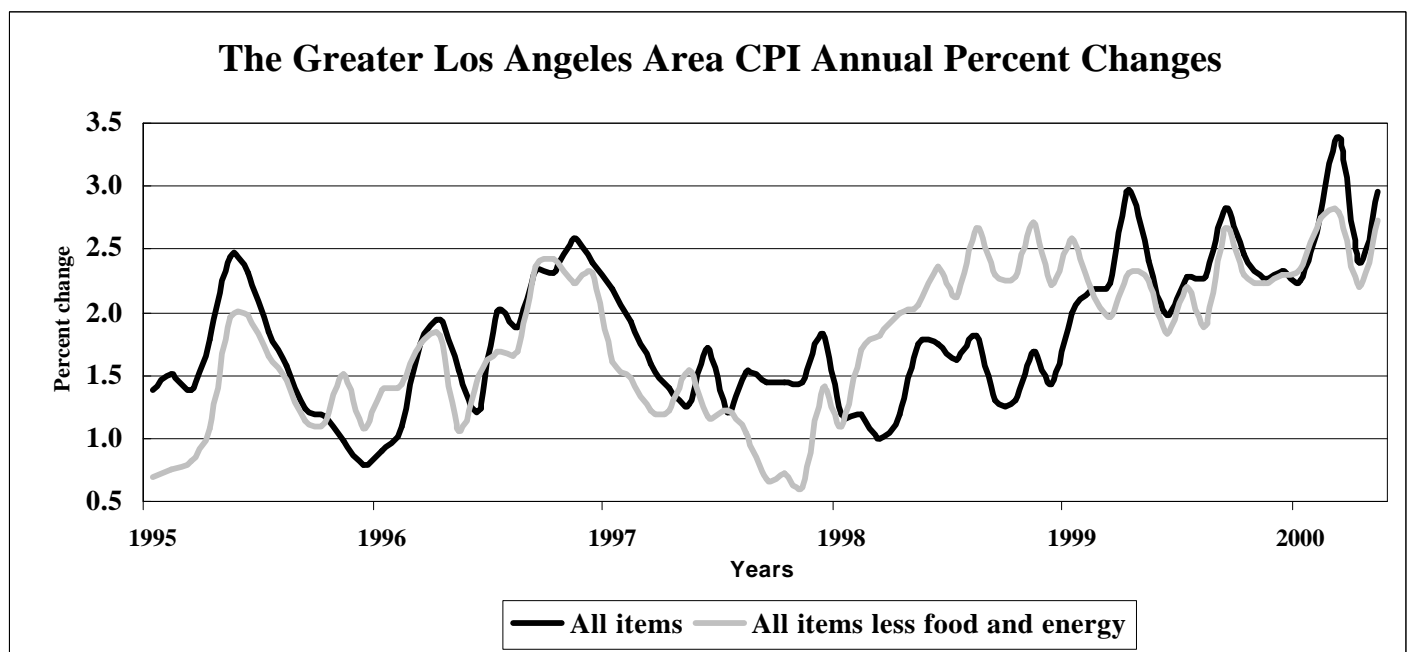
FOR RELEASE:

Tuesday, July 18, 2000

LOS ANGELES AREA CONSUMER PRICES DECLINE 0.1 PERCENT IN JUNE

The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today consumer prices in the greater Los Angeles area moved down 0.1 percent in June. Regional Commissioner Stanley P. Stephenson said the decrease was led by lower apparel prices and transportation costs. For the past 12 months, Los Angeles area prices have advanced 3.3 percent, surpassing the annual rate (2.9 percent) reported last month. Year to date, prices have increased 2.2 percent compared to 1.2 percent for the first six months of 1999. Local area CPI data are not seasonally adjusted.

Demonstrating a strong seasonal effect, the apparel expenditure category has fallen each June for the past 13 years. This month apparel prices dropped 4.5 percent after posting a gain of 4.7 percent in May. For the past year, apparel prices are down 1.4 percent.



Transportation costs dropped 0.6 percent in June. Gasoline prices declined 1.3 percent this month, continuing a volatile pattern of price change. Since June of 1999, gasoline prices are up 19.2 percent. The private transportation index declined 0.3 for the month, but is up 5.2 percent for the year. Overall transportation costs are 5.3 percent above last year's level.

Housing costs posted a gain of 0.5 percent in June and are up 3.7 percent for the year. Shelter costs rose 0.3 percent for the month, and increased 3.3 percent since last year. Rent of primary residence advanced 0.4 percent in June and the owners' equivalent rent of primary residence index increased 0.2 percent. The fuel and utilities index increased 1.4 percent last month, and measures 7.4 percent higher than last year. Utility natural gas service jumped 5.8 percent during the past month and 29.5 percent from a year ago. Household furnishings and operations costs advanced 0.4 percent for the month, and are 3.5 percent above last year's level.

The food and beverages index grew 0.2 percent in June and are up 2.0 percent for the past 12 months. Grocery prices, as measured by the food at home index, inched up 0.1 percent for the month and measure 1.9 percent higher than a year ago. In June, the cost of dining out advanced 0.1 percent while prices paid for alcoholic beverages rose 1.6 percent.

The remaining expenditure categories showed the following price activity. Medical care rose a minor 0.1 percent for the month and is 3.3 percent higher than June 1999. Over-the-month, the recreation category moved down 0.1 percent and the education and communication category declined 0.2 percent. The cost of other goods and services rose 0.3 percent for the month and is 4.0 percent above last year's level.

The Consumer Price Index for All-Urban Consumers, (CPI-U), Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, (Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura counties) now stands at 170.9 on the 1982-84=100 reference base. This indicates a market basket of goods and services costing \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$170.90 in June 2000.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Apr. 2000	May 2000	June 2000	June 1999	Apr. 2000	May 2000
Expenditure category						
All items	170.6	171.1	170.9	3.3	0.2	-0.1
All items (1967=100)	504.0	505.4	504.9	-	-	-
Food and beverages	171.8	172.6	173.0	2.0	0.7	0.2
Food	169.7	170.6	170.8	2.0	0.6	0.1
Food at home	177.7	178.9	179.0	2.0	0.7	0.1
Food away from home	158.2	158.8	159.0	1.9	0.5	0.1
Alcoholic beverages	194.0	192.7	195.7	2.7	0.9	1.6
Housing	169.0	169.2	170.0	3.7	0.6	0.5
Shelter	182.9	182.9	183.5	3.3	0.3	0.3
Rent of primary residence (1).....	175.0	175.5	176.2	3.9	0.7	0.4
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence (1) (2)	191.1	191.2	191.5	3.0	0.2	0.2
Fuels and utilities	150.2	153.8	156.0	7.4	3.9	1.4
Fuels	143.2	148.0	150.8	9.5	5.3	1.9
Gas (piped) and electricity (1).....	143.2	148.2	151.0	9.4	5.4	1.9
Electricity (1).....	154.3	154.3	153.9	0.1	-0.3	-0.3
Utility natural gas service (1).....	138.9	153.0	161.8	29.5	16.5	5.8
Household furnishings and operations	125.1	124.5	125.0	3.5	-0.1	0.4
Apparel	116.2	121.7	116.2	-1.4	0.0	-4.5
Transportation	155.4	154.9	153.9	5.3	-1.0	-0.6
Private transportation	149.3	147.8	147.3	5.2	-1.3	-0.3
Motor fuel	131.7	124.8	123.2	18.2	-6.5	-1.3
Gasoline (all types)	128.7	122.0	120.4	18.2	-6.4	-1.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular (3).....	127.3	120.1	118.5	19.2	-6.9	-1.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade (3) (4).....	125.1	119.3	117.4	17.9	-6.2	-1.6
Gasoline, unleaded premium (3).....	128.0	121.9	120.3	16.2	-6.0	-1.3
Medical care	249.8	252.2	252.4	3.3	1.0	0.1
Recreation (5).....	104.8	104.5	104.4	4.1	-0.4	-0.1
Education and communication (5).....	99.4	99.4	99.2	0.5	-0.2	-0.2
Other goods and services	285.6	283.8	284.6	4.0	-0.4	0.3

See footnotes at end of table.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (Continued)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Apr. 2000	May 2000	June 2000	June 1999	Apr. 2000	May 2000
Commodity and service group						
All items	170.6	171.1	170.9	3.3	0.2	-0.1
Commodities	148.6	148.7	148.0	2.8	-0.4	-0.5
Commodities less food and beverages	133.6	133.3	132.0	3.4	-1.2	-1.0
Nondurables less food and beverages	143.1	142.6	140.3	4.9	-2.0	-1.6
Durables	121.0	120.9	121.0	1.4	0.0	0.1
Services	190.0	190.8	191.1	3.6	0.6	0.2
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	166.4	166.8	166.6	3.3	0.1	-0.1
All items less shelter	166.3	167.0	166.4	3.3	0.1	-0.4
Commodities less food	136.8	136.5	135.3	3.4	-1.1	-0.9
Nondurables	158.6	158.7	157.7	3.3	-0.6	-0.6
Nondurables less food	147.7	147.2	145.2	4.8	-1.7	-1.4
Services less rent of shelter (2)	206.5	208.6	208.4	4.0	0.9	-0.1
Services less medical care services	184.8	185.6	185.9	3.6	0.6	0.2
Energy	133.3	131.2	131.3	14.2	-1.5	0.1
All items less energy	174.9	175.6	175.4	2.7	0.3	-0.1
All items less food and energy	176.3	177.0	176.7	2.9	0.2	-0.2

1 This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series converted to a geometric means estimator in January, 1999.

2 Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

3 Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

4 Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

5 Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.